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Russia Spying More On U.S., Colby Says

• This is the final article in a series of four based on an exclusive interview with ex-CIA Director William E. Colby.

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WASHINGTON — Far behind the United States in the most important aspects of nuclear age intelligence — technology and analysis, the Soviet Union still devotes a lot of attention to trying to steal American secrets.

There have been 400 known attempts to recruit Americans abroad during the past five years.

This was disclosed by ex-CIA Director William E. Colby in an exclusive interview with The Hearst Newspapers.

While some members of Congress and a few Washington commentators, apparently blind to the reality of the global political and ideological conflict Russia is waging against the free world, want the CIA to abandon covert intelligence operations, the Soviets are intensifying their clandestine activities.

"The Russians are spending a lot

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more on secret intelligence than we are," Colby said. "Their operations in the clandestine field are more than ours. They have 40-odd ships around the world constantly shadowing our fleets. Tracking along right on the horizon. They usually have one off Cape Canaveral when we have important space launchings. Last year they had one of their intelligence ships operating off the California coast near the Navy's Pacific firing range, where its newest submarine missiles were being tested.

"In the foreign intelligence field, they are still doing some foolish clandestine stuff — offering those they are trying to recruit \$10,000 in a bar."

Colby, who had told the writer the "fantastic" surveillance techniques developed by the CIA made it possible to tell how many nuclear missiles the Soviets possess and exactly where they are

located, was asked about the Soviets' technological capabilities.

"They have some, but in most areas they are not up to us," he replied: "There are certain things about which they have interesting ideas. They are certainly interested in the technological aspect of intelligence, but they are basically behind us in technology."

Q — How are they on the assessment of intelligence?

A — "They used to be terrible. Their attitude was that if you didn't steal it, it wasn't true. If it appeared in the New York Times, it was part of the great industrial plot to mislead the world. Today, however, they have become more sophisticated.

"In 1967 they set up the Institute For the Study of the U.S.A. This corresponds to our World Revolution Institute at Stanford, which was set up in the '40s. The Russians did not set up such centers of analysis until the late 1960s.

"They are learning that there is an awful lot of information that has to be analyzed. I think that is a good thing. The more they understand us, the less will be the danger of miscalculation."

"When I was introduced to Mr. Brezhnev in 1973, I said: 'The more we know about each other, the safer we all will be.' He didn't answer, but it is true. Wars start because of misunderstandings.

Colby said the Soviet KGB's efforts to recruit American spies "goes all the way from the subtle approach to the more ham-handed one."

"The 400 attempts to recruit Americans abroad in the past five years are the ones we know about. There probably were others that were not brought to our attention. There are people in jail today who were recruited by the Soviets, and there doubtless will be more of those who continue to work for them.